

R E M A R K S

Claims 1, 2 and 4 to 16 as set forth in Appendix II of this paper are now pending in this case. Claim 3 has been canceled, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended, and Claims 10 to 16 have been added as indicated in Appendix I of this paper.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error, and some editorial changes suggested by the Examiner have been effected in Claim 2. Claim 3 has been canceled in favor of new Claim 10 which defines the subject matter previously set forth in Claim 3 albeit in independent form. New Claims 11 to 16 have been added to further bring out the embodiments of the process in Claim 10 which are characterized by the features addressed in Claims 4 to 9. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under the provisions of Section 112, ¶2, is respectfully solicited in light of the foregoing and the attached.

It is further respectfully urged that the Examiner favorably reconsider her rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 4 to 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in light of the teaching of *Watzenberger et al.* (US 5,837,107) taking into account applicants' respective comments and remarks submitted in the Brief dated March 07, 2003 (date of the Certificate of Mailing). Favorable action is solicited.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 11.0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl.: THE LISTING OF CLAIMS (Appendix I)

THE AMENDED CLAIMS (Appendix II)

HBK/BAS